

92nd Engineers smooth over training

Spc. Robert Adams
Staff Writer

Soldiers with 92nd Engineer Battalion paved a 300-foot sidewalk at Evans Army Airfield and renovated an old firehouse at Wright Army Airfield Nov. 8 and 9.

“The training today consists of concrete mixing, verifying that the equipment works, and putting sidewalks in,” said 1st Lt. Patrick Stevens, Headquarters Support Company, 92nd Eng., platoon leader.

The finished sidewalk not only serves as training, but also will permanently be in place for the newly constructed Theater Specific Individual Readiness Training Site classrooms at Evans.

“The last time we did concrete missions was in Afghanistan and we haven’t done many missions since,” Stevens said. “This training gives hands on experience for new Soldiers.”

Some Soldiers in the battalion that were in Afghanistan were able to help out new Soldiers with the training.

“Soldiers in advanced



Spc. Robert Adams

Sgt. Travis Reese, B Company, 92nd Engineer Battalion carpenter spreads wet cement evenly as fellow Soldiers smooth over the surface of a new sidewalk outside the new TSIRT classrooms at Evans Army Airfield Nov. 9.

Combined forces control most of Fallujah

ARNEWS
Special to the Frontline

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Iraqi forces and Multi-National Force-Iraq have wrested most of Fallujah from insurgent control, but operations are not over.

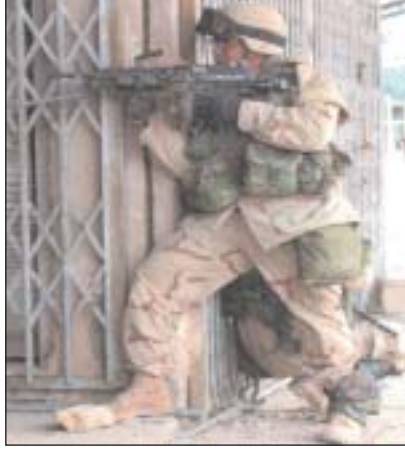
Early Nov. 15, combined forces continued to clear buildings and mosques of weapons and explosives stockpiled by insurgents and were beginning to restore stability and order for Fallujah’s law-abiding citizens, reported the U.S. Central Command.

In the last 24 hours, Multi-National Force aircraft flew several close air support missions, attacking anti-Iraqi forces in numerous buildings

throughout the city. Multi-National forces only take action against targets after credible intelligence and with extreme care to minimize harm to innocent people, CENTCOM officials said.

One mission early Nov. 15 attacked a bunker complex in the southernmost unpopulated section of Fallujah after Multi-National forces discovered an underground bunker and steel-reinforced tunnels. The tunnels connected a ring of facilities filled with weapons, an anti-aircraft artillery gun, bunk beds, a truck and a suspected weapons cache.

As Iraqi and U.S. forces clear



Sgt. 1st Class Johancharles Van Boers
Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, tactically enter and clear their objective in Fallujah during Operation Al Fajr (New Dawn), Nov. 9.

See IRAQ, Page 6A

DoD announces ... Recommended holiday mail dates

ARNEWS
Special to the Frontline

The Department of Defense announced the recommended mailing dates for ensuring that your holiday cards and packages for service members arrive overseas in time for the holiday season.

“To ensure delivery ... to military APO/FPO addresses overseas and to international addresses, we suggest mail be sent by the recommended dates provided by the U.S. Postal Service,” said Mark DeDomenic, the assistant deputy director and chief of operations for the Military Postal Service Agency (MPSA) in Washington, D.C.

PAL: A special service providing air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis, PAL is available for Parcel Post® not exceeding

30 lbs. in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined. The applicable PAL fee must be paid in addition to the regular surface rate of postage for each addressed piece sent by PAL service.

SAM: Parcels paid at Parcel Post® postage rates are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis. The maximum weight and size limits are 15 lbs. and 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Due to security concerns and transportation constraints, DoD no longer accepts items to be mailed to “Any Service Member.” Some people have tried to avoid this prohibition by sending large numbers of packages to an individual service

See DoD, Page 6A



Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft

Jerry Hallfin, Vietnam veteran and former Hunter Soldier, tours the Avn. Bde. hangar he once worked in. Hallfin visited the post Monday.

Hunter vet visits old stomping grounds

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

“Oh, how it’s changed,” were the words that came out of Jerry Hallfin’s mouth when he laid eyes on the hangars he once called home during a visit to his old post, Hunter Army Airfield, Monday.

Hallfin, a Minneapolis resident and a Vietnam veteran, was stationed at Hunter for 15 months after returning from combat in December 1967. His last glimpse of the post was on March 13, 1969.

He wanted to come back, he said, because, “I have so many memories of good times here, in the military and in the city.”

Needless to say, Hunter’s not quite the same as Hallfin remembered it.

“The biggest change is that there aren’t any (UH-1) Hueys here anymore,” he said. “This is a whole different generation of helicopters.”

Hallfin’s military occupational specialty was 67N20, a Huey line maintenance mechanic, but he said he worked on other types of aircraft as well.

“Ah, something familiar,” he said, eyeing some of Aviation Brigade’s CH-47 Chinooks.

After spending time at the two Avn. Bde. hangars, Hallfin said they were the part of Hunter that brought back the most memories.

“This hangar was our lifeblood,” he remarked, looking back at one of the buildings.

During his time at Hunter in the 1960s, Hallfin and his fellow combat

veterans took on the job of training young Soldiers and warrant officers who were on their way to Vietnam.

“For me to be able to help them ... really lent itself to lots of sentimental feeling,” he said.

The work he did at Hunter and in combat was what gave him the drive to go back to school and learn the job even better, Hallfin said.

“The maintenance work I did in the Army was the foundation I needed,” he added.

Hallfin said there were two pieces of advice he wanted to pass on to today’s Soldiers, especially those who are headed into combat.

“Don’t try to be a hero — do your job and accomplish the mission,” he said. “And keep God close by ... hopefully everything will work out.”

Weather Forecast

FRI

High 78° Low 57°

SAT

High 80° Low 62°

SUN

High 81° Low 62°

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Coastal empire celebrates Veterans Day

Soldiers throughout the Coastal Empire came out to show their support for Soldiers past present and future in an array of events on Veteran's Day.

Hinesville helps celebrate Veterans Day

A Veteran's Day ceremony was held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6602 Nov. 11.

The ceremony began with Charles Young, VFW post chaplain, giving the invocation and then the Bradwell Institute Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps posting the colors.

Afterwards, the Liberty County High School JROTC helped with the laying of the wreaths.

The guest speaker for the event was Col. Glenn L. Burch, 3rd Infantry Division chief of staff.

"On behalf of Maj. Gen.

William G. Webster (division commander), the Soldiers of the Marne division, it is a great honor to participate with you in recognizing our veterans," Burch said. "Today's ceremony has special meaning since we have the opportunity to honor all veterans together as the 3rd Infantry Division prepares for its return to combat."

"All of our veterans deserve our thanks for their unwavering service to our nation," he added. "Across our great country and throughout the world, Americans will pause today and honor our brave fighting men and women who for more than 229 years have kept the wolf away from the door and ensured our freedom by energetically engaging the enemies of our country and defeating them on the battlefield."

After the ceremony, the VFW

had refreshments and an open house.

3ID honors veterans during parade

Servicemembers and veterans from all the armed forces showed up to watch and march in a parade on Broughton Street in Savannah in celebration of Veterans Day November 11.

Veterans from as far back as World War II attended the parade. All the services were represented, including the Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Navy Air Force and Army. Local and area high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps drill teams were also present.

"I am out here because I have a great deal of respect for the military," said Louis Molella, a former 3rd Infantry Division Soldier. I support everything that has anything to do with the mili-

tary. Me and my wife volunteer for the Red Cross during every deployment and redeployment. Most of all I am an active supporter of the 3rd Inf. Div."

The crowd was not limited to veterans. Military supporters young and old came out to show their enthusiasm and cheer on the troops who were marching.

"My grandson Patrick has been coming out here for the last five years to watch the parade," said Harriett Turner. "He likes watching the troops go by, and he salutes them when they pass."

Representing the 3rd Inf. Div. Were the Marne Color Guard and the 3rd Inf. Div. Band.

"We veterans are proud to have members of the 3rd Inf. Div. Out here representing the Army," said Ken Seymour, President of the Savannah Veterans Council.

"We have a place for them in the reviewing stand as V.I.P.s. We appreciate everything that the 3rd ID has been doing for our country, and they definitely have earned our respect."

Richmond Hill dedicates monument to all servicemembers

The town of Richmond Hill dedicated a veteran's monument Nov. 13 at J.F. Gregory Park in Richmond Hill.

The monument honors those who have fought for freedom and recognizes the significant contributions of veterans throughout America's history.

"What a wonderful monument," said Col. John M. Kidd, Fort Stewart garrison commander. "This monument is such a great display of affection and

See VET, Page 7A



Spc. Ben Brody

Col. Joseph DiSalvo, 2nd Bde. commander, speaks at a Veteran's Day ceremony at St. Simon's Island.



Members of the Savannah chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars sing hymns at Southside Baptist Church during the annual Massing of the Colors ceremony Sunday.



Pfc. Ricardo Branch

Clem Lee Brown, American Legion Post 27, reads the solemn words inscribed across the monument's face at the Veterans Monument Dedication ceremony in Richmond Hill, Ga.

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Members of the VFW salute the flag during "The National Anthem" at the annual Veteran's Day ceremony in Hinesville, Ga., Nov. 11.



Spc. Jimmy D. Lane

Five-year-old Helen Kappa waves two flags in support of the troops passing by during the Veteran's Day Parade in Savannah Nov. 11.



Photos by Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander, places a Superior Unit Award on the 3220th GSU colors.



Command Sgt. Maj. John B. Grove, 3220th command sergeant major, and 3220th Soldier salute the commander at the beginning of the ceremony.

3220th GSU says goodbye

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

50th PAD

The 3220th Garrison Support Unit, a Reserve unit out of West Palm Beach, FL, held an award and farewell ceremony Nov. 4.

The 3220th GSU was called up to active duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom Jan. 10, 2003.

The 3220th mobilized to Fort Stewart and played a vital role in the 3rd Infantry Division's OIF mission in Iraq, according to information provided before the ceremony.

During the ceremony, there was a formation of 3220th Soldiers who were key players in the unit's mission. The unit received a Superior Unit Award.

The 3220th GSU is the finest garrison support unit in the Army, said Col. John M. Kidd, garrison commander and speaker at the ceremony.

"This is a tough day for me — one of my toughest days ... the 3220th is leaving," Kidd said. "The finest unit I've seen."

After the unit was awarded the Superior Unit Award, the Soldiers were presented with individual awards.

"(3220th) individually and collectively represent the Army Values," said Col. David Elmo, 3220th commander.

"Never forget your accomplishments. When the nation called, you came," he said.

Some 3220th Soldiers will remain at Stewart and run the Mobilization Center.

Mold becomes a growing problem on Stewart

Spc. Jonathan M. Stack

50th PAD

The homes on Fort Stewart are between 28 to 40-years-old and their aging has presented problems.

One Stewart resident was very upset about the current housing issues.

"While living in Marne Terrace some of the issues that occurred were black mold, old pipes and termites," said Dena Swartz, Stewart resident. "The housing is below substandard."

"I'm flustered. The Air Force, Navy and Marines puts families first but the Army doesn't," she said.

Other than the issues at hand

another issue that was brought up was repairs and work orders.

There is no follow through on work orders, Swartz said. If you call the emergency work order number nobody answers.

"Residents who are not pleased with repairs on their homes or the lack of response time can contact the GMH Military Housing project director," said Jeanne C. Adams, RCI program manager. "If you still aren't happy, contact the RCI

office."

"We provide the oversight of all

"We are not going to ignore the mold issue."

Archie Nelson
GMH Military Housing project director

commander, and Kimberly Webster, the 3rd Infantry Division commander's wife, was given a list of houses with problems, Swartz said. No houses have been looked at.

Our quality control specialists constantly check the maintenance and repairs of the housing

areas, Adams said.

GMH visited every house and bring in more people to make the repairs and make sure it doesn't happen again, she said.

Swartz has lived in more than one housing area on Stewart.

Several residents mentioned the problems are not just confined to one community but occur in every community.

"I moved out of Marne Terrace into Bryan Terrace north and not even a week of living there had an electrical fire due to the wiring being put in wrong," Swartz said.

Swartz complained that there is a lot of talk but no follow through.

"I was told this house had been renovated, but there was black

mold under the floors and it was just covered up," she added.

The houses are old, they are going to have mold, and it is not unusual around this area, Adams said. This doesn't mean we are not going to take care of it.

Stewart is a very humid area and susceptible to growing mold.

"We are working with the residents to alleviate the issues, but it is going to take some time," said Archie Nelson, GMH project director, at a recent Stewart town hall meeting. "You can't get rid of mold right away — it takes some time."

Nelson added, "We are not going to ignore the mold issue. I invite residents to get with me or a GMH representative to discuss

VOICES AND VIEWPOINTS

When not to be a realist ...

One veteran who inspired me

Spc. Emily J. Wilsoncroft
Staff Writer

Like many of my fellow Americans, and many more of my fellow Soldiers, I have a friend or two "over there."

Some I hear from, some I don't hear from, and some, sadly, I just hear about on the evening news.

I haven't yet been where they are, but of course, I haven't been living in a cave so I have some ideas about what they might be going through.

That's why it surprised me a bit when I began receiving semi-frequent mass-e-mail "updates" from an Army Public Affairs colleague of mine (now in the desert for almost a year) whose tone was so, well, upbeat.

It seemed like the good times were rollin' over there in the Middle East, and since I am an eternal cynic, my friend's ever-optimistic attitude prompted me to jot a quick note in reply one day.

"With all the craziness that surrounds you, how is it that in your letters Iraq sounds more like a summer camp than a third-world country?" I typed, hoping that the sun's heat hadn't melted my former battle buddy's brain.

Commentary

The next day I received her explanation, and after scanning the few short sentences, I realized that my friend was not only sane, but had also learned a lesson that many of her peers, including yours truly, have trouble catching on to.

In a nutshell, her response was: "Yeah, there is a lot of bad and scary stuff happening out here, but my family and friends hear all of that on the news. Why should they have to hear it from me and be even more worried than they already are? I'd rather tell them about the stuff that's not bad and scary."

I am a seasoned critic of the world, one who is able to see the downside of anything, but as I read that my eyes — for a moment — turned slightly upward.

"You know, she might be onto

something," I muttered to myself. "In a perfect Army, in a perfect world, Soldiers in combat wouldn't write home to fill their loved ones' heads with war stories, but would comfort them with good news, the best they could find in their difficult situations."

Rather than confirming the fears of the pessimists and skeptics back home, why not give them a candle to light their way through the darkness of uncertainty?

We've just passed another Veterans' Day, and since we're living in such a time of turmoil, it couldn't be just another federally-reserved day that shuts down the bank — I'll challenge anyone living in America today who says he doesn't know someone who's a veteran.

What I mean to say is this:

As long as I haven't been to war, I'll be thankful for everyone who has gone for me.

But I'll especially think of the ones who have not only gone, but who've made that extra effort when they called or wrote home to say, in the middle of disaster and destruction, "Everything's great here; you don't have to worry about a thing."



Lane Down Range

Should you stay or should you go?

Spc. Jimmy D. Lane Jr.
1st Bde.

When it comes time to reenlist, there are those who are undecided. If you get out, you believe you will be free. But I can guarantee you there will always be someone to answer to. If you are your own boss, you will still have to succumb to the wants and needs of your clients.

For all of you who are planning on getting out of the Army when you redeploy, you do have something to look forward to. Employers these days are always looking for the type of skills you learn while you are in the Army.

War is chaos, and the reason the Army is so good at war is because we practice chaos every day. This type of training will prepare you for something in the civilian world that few people have the opportunity to experience; multi-tasking.

At any given time, I am doing four things at once.

Commentary



Any normal person would have had a breakdown long ago, but not us Soldiers. We are so used to working in an environment where the sierra is not only hitting the fan, but has been hooked up to a power blower and routed through all the windows in the building. Most people can't appreciate what we do from day to day or the stress we are under at any given time.

What is most surprising is that we are motivated to do these things, whatever the task may be. We are so used to working under chaotic conditions that we don't have to remember our training, it just comes natural.

Another quality that will come in handy when you get into the civilian world is taking care of those underneath you. Before I came into the Army, I ran my own

tile business. Most days I had to pick up my employees from their homes, take them to work, lend them money for lunch, and take them home in the evening. That didn't include getting on their alphas all day long to keep them motivated and paying them at the end of the week.

The Army prepares you for life. There are not many places you can work where they take care of you so well. In the civilian workforce, your superiors don't prepare you for work. You just better be ready, or you get fired. If you mess up, there is no after action review, only a pink slip. It is better to have been exposed to an environment like the Army before you go out into the world. We take care of each other.

I have never seen anything like it. If you are sick, there is no sick call. If you miss work, you lose money.

I think the part of the civilian workforce that bothers me the most is retirement. You can work for a company for 19 years and they will shut down. You will not experience that in the Army. Put in your time and you will get your dime.

I can't truly say that I agree with leaving the Army. I have many co-workers who have left and came back because they lacked the sense of security they had in the Army. I understand that many young Soldiers who joined when they were 17 or 18 want to see what the civilian world is like. I can guarantee you that you will not find the camaraderie you had in the Army. People are out for what they can get because they aren't taken care of. We all more or less make around the same amount of money and live in basically the same conditions.



Marne Voice

THE FRONTLINE

Readers respond to the question:

"Is it important to honor veterans and why?"

"Yes, because they fought for what they believed in like us."

Spc. Johnjames Bloom
HHSC, STB

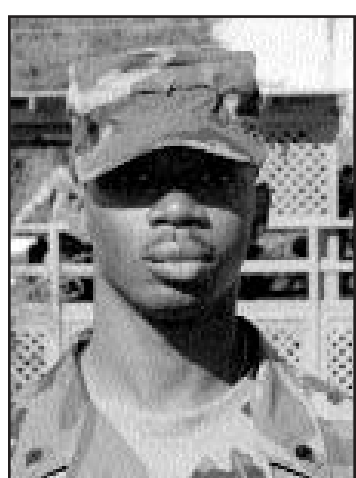


"Yes, they have done a lot for us. They fought for our freedom."

Sgt. Barrett Fischer
179th MP Co.

"Yes, the future past and present. Soldiers have died, are dying and will die"

Spc. LeQueasze Hillman
F Co., 2/7 Inf.



"Yes, for the service they have done. It is a constant reminder of where we come from."

Spc. Mark James
224th MI Bn.

"Yes, for the sacrifices we made."

Lynette Morgan
Retired military



"Yes, vets have protected the interest of the United States of America for more than 200 years."

Sherman Styles
Retired military

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Spc. Robert Adams

Sgt. Travis Reese and Sgt. James Lowe of B Co., 92nd Eng. Bn. shovel cement around evenly as it pours out off the cement mixer.

ENGINEER

from page 1A

individual training only got brief descriptions on the process,” said Spc. Christopher Fuqua, HSC, 92nd Eng. Asphalt concrete machine operator.

“I show them the exact ratios and a prime example of how the machines work, and if they have a question they can ask me.”

When the battalion deploys over to Iraq with the 3rd Infantry Division, they will be the only engineer battalion in the division area.

Some of the equipment that the Headquarters Support Company

has to support the battalion are bulldozers, concrete mixers, haulers, rollers and fork lifts to build what the division needs to operate.

A and B Companies with the battalion are line companies which consist of an earth moving platoon and two vertical platoons, one being carpentry and masonry and the other being plumbing and electricians.

Fuqua said, “everyone has been eager to learn and they have gotten a lot out of the training.”

DoD

from page 1A

member's overseas address, which clog the mail system and cause unnecessary delays in delivery.

DoD requests that those who send mail use the service member's full name (with or without rank or rating), unit and APO/FPO (Air/Army Post Office or Fleet Post Office) address with the nine-digit ZIP code (if one is assigned) and a return address. For packages, mailers are asked to print on one side only with the recipient's address in the lower right portion.

Packages must not be mailed in boxes that have markings related to any type of hazardous material, such as bleach, alcohol, or cleaning fluids. Parcels found by the U.S. Postal Service with such markings or labels on the outside of the box will not be processed. Instead, they will be handled as non-mailable matter - regardless of the contents or what is listed on the U.S. Customs form.

While there are specific restrictions for each five-digit military post office ZIP code (APO/FPO), it is prohibited to mail the following items to the CENTCOM region: obscene articles (prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc.); pork or pork by-products; alcoholic beverages; any matter depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or unauthorized political materials. Although religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith are prohibited in bulk quantities, items for the personal use of the addressee are permissible.

There may be size restrictions and customs declaration form requirements to some locations as mail going through the MPSA can be subject to the host country customs requirements. The time to deliver varies depending on the category of mail and the country of destination. Delivery may also take longer when armed forces are on the move during periods of heightened activity.

Beat the last minute rush by bringing your mail to your post office by these suggested dates.

Military Mail Addressed To	First Class Mail Letters/Cards Priority Mail	PAL	Space Available Mail	Parcel Post®	SAM
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 090-092	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 13	Nov 27
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 093	Dec 6	Dec 6	Dec 4	Nov 13	Nov 27
APO/FPO AE ZIPs 094-098	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 13	Nov 27
APO/FPO AA ZIPs 340	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 13	Nov 27
APO/FPO AP ZIPs 962-966	Dec 11	Dec 11	Dec 4	Nov 13	Nov 27

IRAQ

from page 1A

and secure neighborhoods, they are seeking out those in need of medical care. This information is being relayed through loudspeaker, leaflets and face-to-face contact, officials said.

Medical assistance is being coordinated, and assessment teams have arrived. Fallujah General Hospital is available for use and its staff is ready and eager to treat patients, according to CENTCOM. In

addition, a second hospital in eastern Fallujah is seeing patients, and Multi-National forces have re-supplied the hospital with water and fuel.

Ambulances and civilians have also been evacuated to other Iraqi medical facilities to provide the best possible care, officials said.

About 100 kilometers northeast of Fallujah, U.S. Soldiers in the city of Baqubah were attacked today by insurgents using

rocket-propelled grenades and small arms.

U.S. Army 1st Infantry Division Soldiers were patrolling near the city's Mufrek traffic circle and police station when they came under fire, some of which came from a local mosque.

Editor's note: Information provide by a U.S. Central Command news release and the American Forces Press Service.

VET

from page 2A

the military.”

Richard Davis, Richmond Hill Mayor, envisioned his city having a monument to honor its veterans two years ago after talking to local Vietnam veterans in one of their meetings.

“I talked to a lot of guys, and I came away committed and determined to do something for our veterans,” Davis said. “It was originally going to just be a memorial but since the War on Terror broke out, we decided to also honor all the men and women fighting today, so it became a monument.”

The monument, consisting of six granite slabs, delivered from Elberton, Ga.-based Lexington Blue Granite Company, represent six wars fought by the United States in the last 100 years.

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War, and the current war on Terrorism/Operation Iraqi Freedom are all wars and conflicts displayed across the monument.

“This monument makes me feel very proud,” said Air Force Master Sgt. Thomas Hager, 165th Airlift Wing. “It honors so many veterans from all the wars represented, but people need to realize that all the wars were fought for freedom.”

“We have freedom today from the dedication and sacrifice of people this monument recognizes, that’s important for the public to recognize,” he added.

“It’s quite amazing really,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Thomas Kinley, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment. “A community today is taking the time to recognize Soldiers and servicemembers and all the important things they have to do, that’s what really matters.”

Richmond Hill, due to living in such close proximity to Fort Stewart, has a high density of military in it’s town and according to city officials always wanted a way to say thanks to all the servicemembers. This monument is their way of expressing that.

Massing of the Colors held

The annual Massing of the Colors ceremony was held at Southside Baptist Church in Savannah, Ga., Sunday in honor of Veterans Day.

The Savannah chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars sponsored the ceremony. The ceremony is held by various MOWW chapters and includes color guards bearing national, state and organizational flags.

“The Massing of the Colors is a patriotic event that focuses attention on the positive aspects of our nation – our heritage,” Col. Don McLaurin, MOWW, said.

“Homage is paid to those who struggled to preserve our freedom.”

“We are here to remember all of our Armed Forces; those dead who served so honorably and those living who go about their daily duties

to ensure our freedom,” Air Force Chap. (Chief Warrant Officer 3, retired) Earl Kirkley said.

Air Force Col. Floyd Harbin, guest speaker and commander of the Combat Readiness Training Center, also spoke of remembering those who had paid the ultimate price.

He told stories of airmen who had overcome the odds to go forward and serve their country, only to be wounded or killed in battle.

“Great memories are the essence of life. Without memories, there is no future,” he said. “Today’s ceremony is one more opportunity to remember those who have fought so honorably to preserve the freedom we hold so dear.”

“Freedom is not a given; freedom doesn’t come without a cost. So many Soldiers never come home – that is the way of war and the price our Soldiers pay for wearing the uniform,” Harbin said.

Even though the event was held in honor of Veterans Day, Lt. Col. (retired) William Baker, commander MOWW, Savannah Chapter, best summed up the feeling of the afternoon.

“If you cherish your freedom, thank a veteran, not only on Veterans Day, but everyday,” he said.

Editor’s note: *Staff Sgt. Michelle Helms-Dodge, Spc. Jonathan M. Stack, Spc. Jimmy D. Lane and Pfc. Ricardo Branch contributed to this article.*

Which family members or retirees should get the flu shot?

Eligible military dependants who are in one of the following high risk groups as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and prevention.

- children aged 6 to 23 months.
- adults aged 65 and older.
- persons aged 2 to 64 with underlying chronic medical conditions.
- women who will be pregnant during the influenza season.
- residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities.
- children aged 6 months to 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy for a specific medical reason.
- out of home caregivers and household contacts of infants less than 6 months old.
- healthcare workers with direct patient contact (hands-on or face-to-face contact as part of routine daily activities).

Reference: CDC web link for additional information:

www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/whoshouldget.htm

Army tests flu vaccine half-doses

Sgt. 1st Class
Tammy M. Jarrett

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — Army researchers are studying whether half doses of vaccine can prevent flu in healthy Pentagon volunteers.

The study, conducted by the Allergy-Immunology Department and Vaccine Healthcare Centers Network at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services, compares the immune responses of participants who receive half doses of vaccine with those who receive full doses.

The purpose of the study isn't to prove that a half dose is the same, but to prove that it isn't inferior to a full dose, said Maj. Molly Klote, research fellow at the Allergy-Immunology Department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"We are trying to see whether a half dose of the flu vaccination would be what's called non-immunological inferior to the full dose," said Klote. "Basically, [the half dose] has the same affect on the immune system as the full dose of the vaccine in healthy people. We think a healthy immune system only needs half as much of the vaccine to create the same immune response of a full dose of someone who's older or has a less effective immune system."

If immune responses are similar in the two groups, U.S. health-care providers may be able to respond to future vaccine shortages by giving healthy people half doses. This would allow protection of twice as many people during shortages or major flu epidemics.

The goal is to vaccinate 1,440 individuals who are Military Health System beneficiaries, or enrolled by Nov. 24, between the ages 18 and 64 and who do not

fall into DoD's priority categories for receiving the existing vaccine or haven't had a flu shot in the past three years. In addition to the Pentagon site in the con-course, a second site will open at the Walter Reed Allergy-Immunology Clinic Nov. 18.

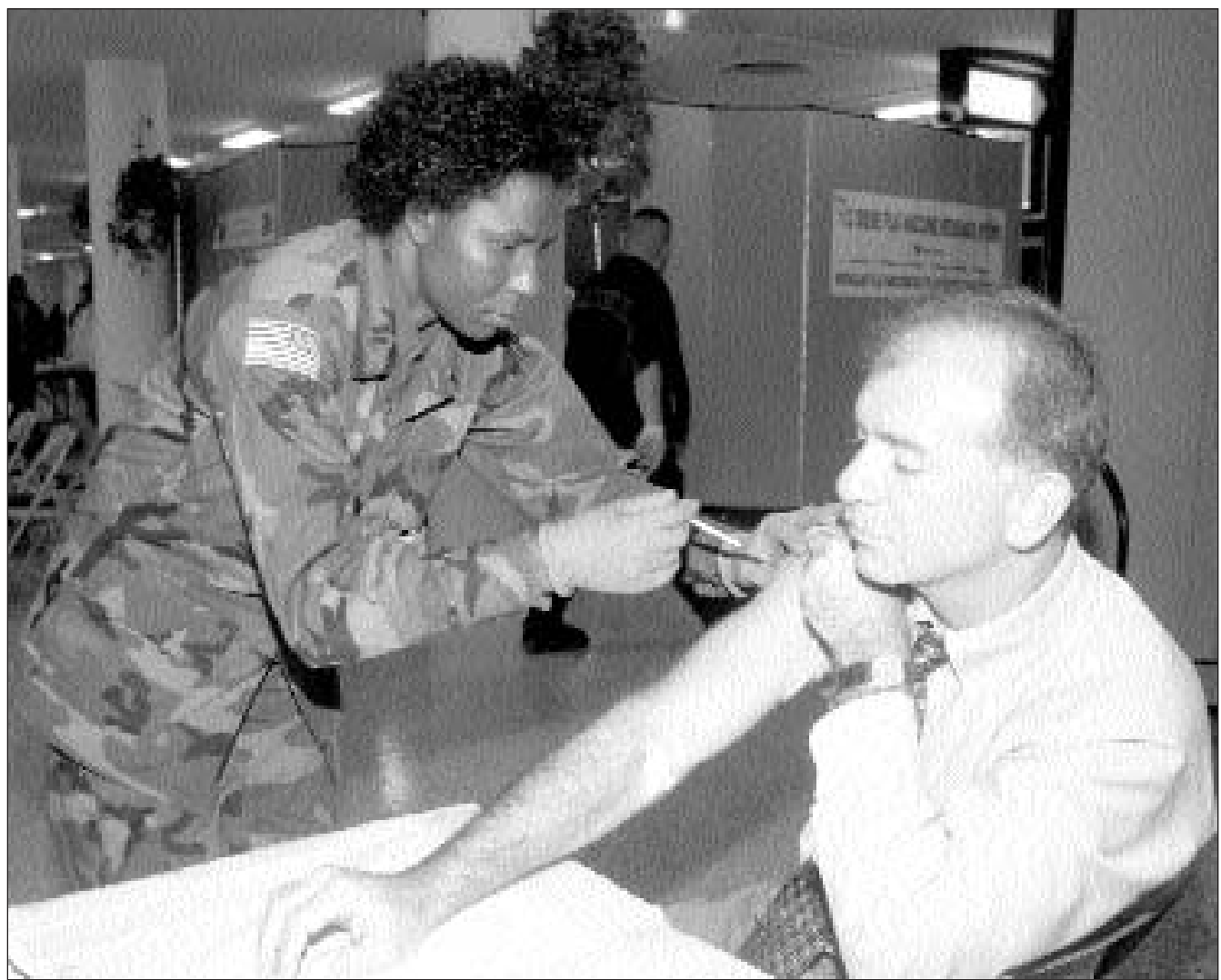
"The response has been fabulous for DoD and for readiness since we have so many healthy people in our recruits and Soldiers," said Col. Renata Engler, chief of the Allergy-Immunology Department at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The only problem is trying to find people who haven't had a flu shot in the last three years, she added.

"The reason why healthy people are so important is because data shows that the best way to protect the most vulnerable people in our population is to immunize those around them," Engler. "Not just in hospitals, but in homes and work areas because, in some cases, people who are at the greatest risk ... don't respond well to the vaccination."

The study requires two visits over a three-week period, starting on the first day of vaccination. Individuals participating in the study must have a tube of blood drawn, which will be used to measure the antibodies to the influenza virus. Once receiving the randomly selected half dose or full dose of the vaccine, individuals are given a diary card to record any symptoms or side effects for the next 21 days.

During that time, the participants will receive two more follow-up surveys by e-mail or phone asking if they had any flu-like illness, unexpected hospital visits or trips to the emergency room for any upper respiratory or flu-like illnesses, said Klote. Surveys will continue for six months after initial enrollment.

On the second visit, individuals will give another tablespoon of blood, and then both samples will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



Sgt. 1st Class Tammy M. Jarrett

2nd Lt. Grace Wguhmbi, a registered nurse with the 2290th Army Hospital at Walter Reed, gives Tony Stampone a random dose of flu vaccine. Stampone, who works at the Pentagon for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, is one of many participants taking part in the study to see whether half doses of flu vaccine can prevent flu in healthy volunteers.

lab to measure the antibodies.

"It's critical to the study to get people to come back in 21 days or so to get the post blood drawn," said Engler, "because that's when the immune system responds to the vaccine."

One participant, Tony Stampone with the Office of Secretary of Defense, said the study is a good idea and the process was efficient and thorough. It's a good opportunity to immunize as many people to immunize with the same amount, Stampone said.

While other half-dose studies

have been done, more data is needed to apply results to the population as a whole, officials said. The Army study is looking at additional age groups, numbers of clinic visits and other health outcomes of the participants, and is adding an additional flu season of data. The Food and Drug Administration, which licenses U.S. vaccines, needs such additional data before making a decision about half-dose administration.

The vaccine used in the study is the same U.S. vaccine that is currently available for high-risk

individuals. The study will use less than one-tenth of a percent of the flu vaccine DoD is allotted for this flu season, an investment with the potential to reduce illness and save lives, both in its beneficiaries and in the general public, officials said.

Information about the DoD's flu vaccination priorities, this year's flu season, and flu prevention is available from the Military Vaccine Agency, on the Web at www.vaccines.mil/. Walter Reed's Vaccine Healthcare Center is on the Web at www.wramc.amedd.army.mil/.

Army Family Action Plan Issues and Responses

(To clarify the following text the Issue is headlined, (A) Scope, (B) Recommendations and (C) Status)

FS 04-01 Home School Coordinator

(A) There is a lack of a home school liaison to organize and support home school groups. A designated representative for home school children is needed due to an increase in the number of home school students. This problem affects all military family who choose to home school their children.

(B) 1. Provide an educated liaison in home schooling to facilitate transfer from post to post with understanding of what to expect at each location; 2. Establish a home school association to enable home school students to network and share resources.

(C))Active. DMWR/SLO is working with Liberty County and Chatham County. Attempting to form a partnership with the counties' Home School Coordinator.

FS 04-02 Voting School Board Member

(A) There is no military voting representative on the school boards. Currently, there is no military influencing voice on the school boards. Military families are not being heard and have issues that need to be solved.

(B) Military installation is made a voting school board district.

(C) Unattainable. GC states this is a state issue.

FS 04-03 Federal Guidelines to Recognize Professional License from State to State

(A) Professional career license are non-transferable from state-to-state. Due to the transient lifestyle of military families, this creates financial hardship. The retention of our soldiers is also reduced due to the inability to transfer professional license for their spouses. Families experience emotional distress which causes undo strain upon the soldier which directly affects the soldier's readiness.

(B) The Federal Government should establish guidelines: 1. To ensure states recognize military family member's professional licenses; 2. To ensure license fees in continuing education would be valid until expiration date; 3. Upon expiration, family member could pay fees for the state they are currently living/working in to maintain certification/license.

(C) Unattainable. Licensing policies vary from state to state.

FS 04-04 Attainable Opportunity For Family Members Employment

(A) Local agencies are reluctant to hire family members. Therefore, there are insufficient opportunities for family members to obtain employment due to the transient lifestyle. Local installation is not working with local businesses to ensure employment opportunities for the family members creates emotional and financial distress on the family members which effects the readiness of the soldier.

(B) 1. Local installation to develop an employment clearing house. The clearing house will market opportunities to local business owners for hiring family members; 2. Create a fluent transition of employees for businesses due to the transient family member's lifestyle which would alleviate the absence of an employee position whether it is a full time or part time, temporary or permanent.

Clearing house would pre-qualify the family members for that particular job.

(C) Active. A federal grant is being applied through SERO to job training and childcare for family members while attending the job training.

FS 04-05 Use of MWR Facilities By Civilians Contractors

(A) MWR Facilities were established to provide Moral Welfare and Recreation for service members and their families. These facilities are privileges that service members work hard and

sacrifice much for, yet civilian contractors are allowed to use them freely.

(B) Prohibit use of non- public MWR facilities by civilian contractors.

(C) Completed. Decision was made to allow usage. Active duty are not denied use of facilities due to the contractor's usage. Anyone participating must have proper ID.

FS 04-06 Inadequate Child care Services

(A) Military duties require soldiers to work irregular duty hours. These obligations create an additional strain on single parent or dual military families because installation child care facilities have limited business hours. There is no known list of emergency care providers available for extended or short-term care.

(B) 1. Change CDC opening to 0500; 2. Reserve slots for single or dual military parents; 3. Establish list of emergency short-term care providers for extended hours.

(C) Active. FCC offers extended hours and that care is flexible. AR 608-10 prohibits a child to be in childcare center more than 12 hours per day.

FS 04-07 Weight Allowance for Dependents During PCS

(A) Weight allowances increase as service members acquire rank, however, there is not an allowance for the number of dependents. Each dependent brings their own needs with them, to include furniture, clothing, and toys, as well as personal items. This causes unnecessary financial hardship due to additional charges for excess weight.

(B) Increase weight allowance, regardless of rank, to 1,500 pounds per dependent for PCS.

(C) Active. Issue will be forwarded for consideration at the 2005 FORSCOM AFAP.

FS 04-08 Dual Military Deployments into Hostile Areas when Dependents are Involved

(A) Current Army policy allows for deployment of dual military to hostile areas. This increases the risk of both service members becoming fatalities, causing dependents to become orphans or potential wards of the state. Caregivers identified in family care plan may be equipped for temporary guardianship but not permanent care.

(B) 1. Commander(s) should determine which one of the two soldiers will be deployed based upon mission requirement; 2. When commanders have no preference the decision of who is deployed is given to the soldier.

(C) Unattainable. Efforts are made to prevent both parents to be deployed at the same time. This would create a hardship on the Army.

FS 04-09 Army Policy Dealing With Overweight Soldiers

(A) Soldiers are being unnecessarily separated due to the current overweight policies. Once a soldier is identified as being overweight their records are flagged preventing promotion and retention. Soldiers who are otherwise fully qualified are being separated affecting readiness and the mission of the Army.

(B) 1. Commanders need to have additional discretion when determining whether a soldier is separated due to overweight factors; 2. Commanders should evaluate overall performance and basic qualifications of the soldier.

(C) Unattainable. Army policy dictates overweight policies.

FS 04-10 National Nurse Help Line

(A) Currently, Tricare no longer provides national nurse helpline services. Contractual provisions did not offer this service after August 2004. Lack of an interpersonal program

could prompt increased scheduled appointments, emergency room visits, wait times, and customer dissatisfaction. A national nurse helpline provides valuable interpersonal advice when service member and/or family members are away from home station or after duty hours.

(B) 1. Implement and maintain a 24 hour national nurse helpline staffed by trained professionals; 2. Renegotiate Tricare contract to reinstate the national helpline; 3. Publish local nurse hotlines in Welcome packets and on websites and newspapers.

(C) Active. A business case analysis is being done. Individuals can call the WACH SDO @ 1-800-652-9221 or the ER is open 24 hours.

FS 04-11 Timely Medical Test Results

(A) The current process of notifying patients of tests results is lengthy and ineffective. In order to receive test results, a patient must schedule an appointment 2 weeks post testing with health care providers, who may not be available to see them in a timely manner. This cumbersome process may increase patient stress and anxiety and patient dissatisfaction. A more expeditious system of notification is necessary.

(B) 1. Hire medical professionals to contact patients to give test results within 24 hours of receiving results, schedule appointments if needed; 2. Simultaneously send, via AKO, e-mail and regular mail within 24 hours of posted test results; 3. Patients who receive test results requiring consultation with doctor should have scheduling priority for follow-up appointments.

(C) Completed. Additional personnel have been hired. A digital X-Ray has been purchased. This type of equipment gives immediate X-Ray films.

FS 04-12 Annual Retirement and Benefits Awareness Program

(A) Soldiers, DA civilians, and family members approach retirement uninformed of impact of benefits and medical costs, on their financial state. Currently, briefings occur too late in career for adequate retirement planning. Earlier career planning would enable retirees and family members to prepare to maintain quality of life. The lack of knowledge creates a hardship on retirees and their families.

(B) 1. Mandatory classes (no less bi-annually) concerning retirement issues, taught by trained personnel not assigned to unit. Family members are invited and encouraged to attend; 2. Conduct Retirement Awareness Month to include a vendor fair or conference and free classes on retirement planning with community wide advertisement.

(C) Active. Issue will be forwarded to the 2005 FORSCOM AFAP.

FS 04-13 Retiree Medical Benefits after age 65

(A) If you have Tricare for Life you must have Medicare Part B at a great cost to the retiree since Tricare Prime is no longer available after age 65. Currently retirees of age 65 or older pay \$66.40 per person, per month, for Medicare Part B (costs subject to increase each year). Tricare for Life eligibility disappears if the member does not enroll in Medicare Part B. Soldiers and family members are not aware that medical benefits are not free for life. Medical coverage fees are increasing drastically in cost. The Cost of Benefits prohibits many retirees from receiving necessary health care.

(B) 1.Extend current medical benefits beyond age 65 (current-

POLICE REPORTS

- **Subject:** Sergeant, 26-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of marijuana, wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of marijuana
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, no driver's license, weaving over roadway
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, failure to stop at posted stop sign
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old female, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding, no seat belt
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 27-year-old female, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving while license suspended, speeding 41/20
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 25-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Fighting in public
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21-year-old male, 1st Bde.



- **Charge:** Fighting in public
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Assault consummated by a battery, simple assault, obstruction of justice, public drunkenness, disorderly conduct
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Family member, 30-year-old female
- **Charge:** Theft of public property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 22-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Simple battery, simple assault, cruelty to children
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 23-year-old male, 1st. Bde.
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, reckless driving
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Bde., 23-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charges:** Assault consummated by a battery, adultery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Forgery of a personal check
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, driving on the wrong side of the roadway, speeding
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 23-year-old male, separate unit
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to illuminate tag
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Specialist, 28-year-old male, s1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 22-year-old female, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 25-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 33-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, fleeing, attempting to elude police officers, open container, speeding 87/45
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Failure to provide proof of insurance, failure to yield right of way, expired tags
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, separate unit

- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 70/45
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private, 24-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Drunken driving, speeding 40/30
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 26-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, speeding 68/45
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Specialist, 31-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Speeding 70/55, open container
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 32-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charge:** Driving under the influence
- **Location:** Liberty County
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 33-year-old male, 4th Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, racing, no proof of insurance, expired tag, suspended tag
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 21 - year-old male, separate unit
- **Charge:** Wrongful possession of cocaine, wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Hunter
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old female, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, consumption of alcohol by minor, suspended or revoked license, too fast for conditions
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 22-year-old male, 4th. Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving under the influence, failure to maintain lane
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Simple assault, communicating a threat, drinking underage without permission, disrespect to NCO
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old female, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Assault consummated by a battery, child neglect
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 20-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charges:** Driving underage, larceny of AAFES property
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Specialist, 25-year-old female, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Assault consummated by a battery
- **Location:** Fort Stewart
- **Subject:** Private 1st Class, 30-year-old male, 2nd Bde.
- **Charge:** Possession of drug related objects
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private, 20-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charge:** Wrongful use of cocaine
- **Location:** Savannah
- **Subject:** Private, 19-year-old male, 1st Bde.
- **Charges:** Wrongful use of cocaine, wrongful possession of marijuana
- **Location:** Hinesville
- **Subject:** Sergeant, 24-year-old male, Div. Sup. Bde.
- **Charge:** Failure to obey a general order or regulation
- **Location:** Fort Stewart

3ID IN BRIEF

Stewart

Blues and Barbeque
Bring your blankets and chairs, Saturday, 5 p.m. and enjoy Authentic blues music by the Bonaventures, Mills House (Chamber of Commerce, 500 East Oglethorpe Hwy). Free for all Active Duty Military. Admission for all others: \$5. Barbecue and beverages will be on sale at concert site.
This event is sponsored by the Hinesville Area Arts Council and MWR.

Bike Rodeo
Fort Stewart MPs are sponsoring a Bike Rodeo at Briton Elementary School, Saturday. The rodeo will teach children how to ride bikes properly.

Marne Chapel
Installation Chaplain's Office (Marne Chapel) has free Chanukah Menorahs for Jewish personnel in the Fort Stewart and Hunter Airfield area. If you are interested in receiving one, please stop by Marne Chapel or contact us at 767-8801.

Special Olympic Games
Volunteers are needed for the 2004 Winter games at Marne and Stewart Lanes, Dec. 3. Any assistance is welcomed and rewarding.

Indebtedness claim
Anyone having claims against or who is indebted to the estate of Pfc. David E.

Cromwell, Jr., D Co., 1/3 Avn. Regt., Attack Helicopter Bn., contact Chief Warrant Officer 3 Michael Campbell at 912-429-7780 or 912-228-0554.

Resume Workshop
A resume writing workshop is scheduled for Monday, 9:30 a.m. in the ACS Bldg. 253. For more information, call 767-5058.

Newman Fitness Center
The facility will be closed Nov. 29, for renovation and will remain closed until completed. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Retirement ceremony
The monthly retirement ceremony is today. There will be no ceremony in Dec. For more information, call 767-5851/8799.

Open House
The grand re-opening and ribbon cutting ceremony for Dental Clinic #4 is scheduled Dec. 4. The clinic has recently undergone a multi-million dollar renovation and will be tentatively open for business Dec. 13, and will provide Specialty Dental Care for Soldiers of Fort Stewart and Hunter.

Holiday Brunch Bazaar
Fort Stewart Officers' Spouses club is sponsoring a brunch Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Club Stewart.

Hunter

5K Walk/Run
The 1st Annual Hunter Turkey Trot 5K Walk/Run is scheduled for Saturday at 9 a.m. at Hanger 7901 (located on N. Lightning Rd. next to the Coast Guard Air Station). Packet pick-up and registration will begin Friday, at the 2-3 Aviation Battalion Headquarters (FRG Conference Room) from 4 to 7 p.m., or register early online at www.active.com. Cost is \$15 prior to Nov. 19, \$20 on Race Day.

Vehicle Registration
Hunter Army Airfield Vehicle Registration/Police Administration Office will be closed Nov. 25 and 26.

Road Closure
Due to the installation of a new sewer line, the intersections of Gannam Avenue and South Perimeter Road (near the youth sports fields) and Gannam Avenue between Farie Drive and Oliver Avenue will be closed to vehicular traffic until Dec. 10. During these dates, motorists may access Wilson Acres Housing Area by the side street off Wilson Boulevard in the vicinity of the Wilson Gate.

Christmas Toy Drive
The Hunter Commissary is conducting a Toy Drive now through Dec. 18 to collect toys to be disturbed to needy military families based at Hunter. The commissary is asking for new, unwrapped toys for boys

and girls ages 2-12. Contact Marcus McDonald or Linda Harrington at 352-5007/5711 for more information.

AKO Account
The advantage of using AKO, to communicate with your spouse and loved ones, over the other sites such as Yahoo and MSN, is that AKO is a secure site. Your Email and IM are protected and can not be compromised as they can be with Yahoo and MSN. With the current state of upcoming installation deployments, everyone needs to be vigilant in the content of information they send out through Emails and IM. That is why AKO should be your only means of communicating with your loved ones now and while you are deployed.
By sponsoring your spouse and loved ones with an AKO account, your communications back and forth will always be kept secure and confidential. A simple step by step Power Point presentation can be located on the Ft. Stewart Internet in the New Items section <https://intranet.stewart.army.mil/default2.htm> or <https://intranet.stewart.army.mil/doim/businessdivision/AKOGuestPresentation2004.ppt>

Winterize Your Boat
Class will be held at Outdoor Recreation Center Dec. 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
For more information call 352-5722.

Winn /Tuttle

Update DEERS
Beneficiaries must keep their DEERS information up-to-date or they may not be able to receive referrals, schedule appointments or access TRICARE Online. Winn and Tuttle use DEERS information to contact you regarding referrals and appointments. DEERS information can be updated by calling 1-800-538-9552, visiting: www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/default.cfm or stopping by building 253.

TRICARE Phone Numbers
For general health care information, you can call the Humana Military Audio Library at 1-877-217-7946. If you have questions about TRICARE, you can call TRICARE at 1-800-444-5445 or the Health Benefits Office at 370-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Third Party Insurance
Individual's social security numbers will no longer be displayed on health insurance cards in accordance with Georgia Senate Bill 721. Individuals with private health insurance should contact the Third Party Insurance Office at Winn upon receipt of their unique member identification numbers (policy numbers.) Call the Third Party Insurance Office at 370-6037/6947 for more information.

Tobacco Cessation Classes
You must take the "Ready to

Quit" class before you can take the Tobacco Use Cessation class. The "Ready to Quit" class is available 11 a.m. Nov. 24 on a walk-in basis. The Tobacco Use Cessation class at Winn will be held 6 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday from Dec. 9 to 30. Tuttle's class will be held 1 to 3 p.m. every Wednesday from Dec. 7 to 28. The class will help you kick the habit, whether smoking, chewing or dipping. To register at Winn, call 370-5071. To register at Tuttle, call 1-800-652-9221.

Full Service PX Pharmacy
The full service Satellite PX Pharmacy is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

PX Pharmacy
The PX Satellite Pharmacy is now open for full service business. Patients may fill new prescriptions and refill prescriptions here 9 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

ER Remodeling
The Emergency Department will have minor disruption for remodeling. All emergencies and urgent care patients should still report to the ER. Non-emergency patients are encouraged to schedule appointments with their primary care manager. Appointments, including same-day appointments, may be scheduled by calling 370-6633.

AFAP

from page 9A

ly known as Tricare Prime) at a cost equal to those under 65 using TriCare Prime. Current annual cost is \$460 per year, per family; 2. DOD subsidize service members Medicare Part B payment.

(C) Active. Issue will be forwarded to the 2005 FORSCOM AFAP.

FS 04-14 School of Choice

(A) Military family members need to have the ability to choose their high school regardless of county or zone. Currently students are forced to go to schools that do not offer academic needs or preferences. This especially affects transferring high school seniors. Some students must pay out of pocket or use scholarships money to obtain class credits from schools (colleges) out of their assigned zones. Allowing choice of school help students to achieve academic success and goals that insures a smoother transition.

(B) Authorize school of choice regardless of zone or county

(C) Unattainable.

FS 04-15 Lack of Teen Employment

(A) Currently there are insufficient teen employment opportunities at Fort Stewart and surrounding area. The installation does have enough opportunities for teen employment due to lack of funding. Teens would like to learn new skills, gain experience and earn money to put back into the community. By providing more teen employment opportunities, teens would benefit financially and professionally.

(B) 1. Assess the community for the availability of teen employment opportunities; 2. Authorize the funding and create year round jobs on Fort Stewart; 3. Network with local businesses to create employment.

(C) Active. A grant request to the Boys and Girls Club is being submitted.

FS 04-16 Family Care Plan Education Plan

(A) The creation of a Family Care Plan (FCP) poses unique challenges for single parent/dual military families and the military chain of command. Both the chain of command and soldiers lack education on the requirements. This can result in a breakdown in communication which can impact a unit's ability to deploy.

(B) 1. Incorporate block of instruction on FCP into 1SG/Commander Courses; 2. Establish FCP liaison to provide counsel between soldier and chain of command.

(C) Active. A block of instruction will be added to the Commanders and First Sergeant's Course.

FS 03-02 Youth Services Action Council

(A) Army's youth experience problems and need an established program with which to air our problems and develop solutions while supporting each other. In order to be heard the Army's youth family members, regardless of sponsor's rank, desire to expand the scope of the already existing "Teen Supreme" program. Army youth experience problems and need an established program with which to air out problems and develop solutions while supporting each other.

(B) 1. Establish and implement a process distribute information about the youth council and related activities; 2. Establish monthly meetings between delegates of the youth action council and the Garrison Commander to review issues and solutions impacting the youth; 3. Establish and provide transportation for monthly meetings

for Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield.

(C) Active. A meeting will be setup with GC in 2nd QTR FY 05.

FS 03-03 Military Childcare Providers

(A) Fees are excessively high. Hours do not accommodate the high operations tempo and deployment for today's Soldier and military family. Availability of enrollment spaces are limited and results in long waiting lists

(B) 1. Provide military oversight and staffing for childcare centers; 2. Create an MOS for childcare providers; 3. Initiate a new fee scale based on having military child care providers.

(C) Elevated to DA. Will be reviewed by DA delegates in Nov 04.

FS 03-05 Shortage Of Medical Personnel At Times Causes Loss Of Manpower To The Units.

(A) No matter what time Soldier's and family members arrive at the TMC, they are forced to wait to sign-in, be evaluated and diagnosed. A hasty diagnosis occurs due to an overflow of patients and a shortage of medical personnel, which results in inadequate treatment. In addition the referral system is inefficient because it is more time consuming than the process at TMC. In effect, the employment shortage at TMC's creates a loss of manpower to the units.

(B) 1. Hire more permanent medical personnel on a full time basis; 2. Revise appointment and referral system; 3. Establish contracts/partnership with local providers and outside health care agencies to supplement TMC shortages.

(C) Completed. WACH Patient Representative stated that additional providers have been hired. GC recommended that this concern be reviewed periodically from time to time, as the need may change.

FS 03-06 Restructure Priority For On Post Housing

(A) Priority for government on post-privatized housing varies from installation to installation. The vast majority of junior enlisted Soldiers have families. Most junior enlisted Soldiers are not financially stable. With the high cost of living Soldiers are unable to afford adequate housing due to limited financial resources. Junior enlisted Soldiers getting priority for government housing will: increase duty performance and moral, allow Soldiers to become more financially stable, decrease family discord, increase Soldier self esteem, and increase overall retention Army wide.

(B) Establish DA Policy that standardizes and gives priority for on post/ government/ privatized housing to junior enlisted Soldiers at all installations.

(C) Completed. Additional housing will be available this month. 83% of Government housing is Junior Enlisted.

FS 03-07 Provide Mid Tour Transportation For Soldiers During Hardship Tours

(A) Soldiers on hardship tours endure financial and emotional stress while separated from their families. The cost of high airfare for mid-tour leave compounds financial stress on the families. Long hardship tours in conjunction with OPTEMPO/extended deployments decrease morale and are directly related to low retention rare and family discord. On many occasions, Soldiers go into debt or choose not to take leave because the financial strain of hardship tours unnecessary burdens on Soldiers and families. Providing no-cost mid tour transportation will improve the overall morale of the

Soldiers; reduce financial and emotional stress of deployed Soldiers and their families; reduce family discord, as well as increase the retention rate of the Army.

(B) Allocate funding for Soldiers to travel round trip at no cost to them to visit their families at the mid point of their hardship tours.

(C) Completed. Soldiers are authorized R&R directly (door to door).

FS 03-09 Upgrading MAC Traveler Status For Soldiers On Short Tours.

(A) Currently, Soldiers on ordinary leave are category III when traveling space available on MAC flights. This does not guarantee a Soldier's seat and may cause the Soldier to pay out of pocket to get a commercial flight or spend their leave waiting for a space A seat.

(B) 1. Create a separate category for Soldier's who are serving on unaccompanied tours and are on ordinary leave from cat III to give them a higher status then the remaining cat III travelers; 2. Issue travel orders, at the beginning of the Soldier's tour, with two one-week flight windows ensuring MAC flights travel.

(C) Active. Currently, Army is addressing this issue.

FS 03-10 Overcrowding In Billets

(A) Three per room is unhealthy, unsafe and brings down Soldier's morale. Soldier's need space to unwind from the say just like everyone else. The current barracks project are scheduled to be completed in FY08 will still result inadequate billeting for Soldiers.

(B) 1. Secure funding to build more adequate billeting to meet the needs of the Soldier population; 2. Authorize single Soldiers to move off post wit BAH; 3. Eliminate the movement of Soldiers into identified condemned housing areas.

(C) Completed.

Additional facilities have been built. Brigade Commanders have the authority to E-4 and up the option to live off post and draw single BAH.

FS 03-14 More Equitable Allocation Of Resources Between Hunter Army Airfield & Fort Stewart To Better Meets The Needs OfThe HAAF Community

(A) Soldiers & Family Members at Hunter are frustrated with the shortage of personnel in vital roles in community agencies, primarily at the CDC, ACS (registration), Tuttle Clinic (Patient Rep. & Tricare), & Education Center. (No evening hours). There is an overall lack of Division wide information that is specific to Hunter, i.e.: The Frontline does not even list Catholic services or various activities at Hunter. They are frustrated with the misinformation or lack of information given when part-time Hunter personnel are unavailable during business hours, i.e.: patients being told there is no EFMP available for Hunter families when there really is.

(B) 1. Allocate more personnel hours for vital roles in Community Agencies; 2. Implement a two-way flow of information Hunter & Stewart agencies with regard to community polices & procedures; 3. Implement a contingencies plan for part-time personnel during their absences and times of high OPTEMPO and deployment, so that services do not come to a halt.

(C) Active. Additional staff are being hired in ACS and CYS. The Tuttle Army Health Clinic Patient Representative is still part time with increased hours.

Marne TV

November Schedule

Marne TV can be found on Comcast Cable Channel 16 every weekday.
Tune in to the Marne Report six times a day for the latest from Stewart and Hunter.

5 a.m.....	Army Newswatch
5:30 a.m.....	MARNE REPORT
6:30 a.m.....	Air Force News
7 a.m.....	Navy News
7:30 a.m.....	Army Newswatch
8 a.m.....	MARNE REPORT
9 a.m.....	Air Force News
9:30 a.m.....	Navy News
11:30 a.m.....	Army Newswatch
Noon.....	MARNE REPORT
1 p.m.....	Air Force News
4:30 p.m.....	Navy News
5 p.m.....	MARNE REPORT
6 p.m.....	Army Newswatch
6:30 p.m.....	Air Force News
7 p.m.....	Navy News
10 p.m.....	MARNE REPORT
11 p.m.....	Army Newswatch
Midnight.....	MARNE REPORT

Walk-in Clinic Vaccines Only!!

The Fort Stewart Veterinary Clinic has scheduled a walk-in clinic for Saturday, 8 to 10 a.m.

This is a first come, first serve basis, so please be patient.

For everyone's safety, cats MUST be in a carrier and dogs MUST be on a leash.

For more information call 767-4194/2842

Bush, first lady visit wounded Soldiers

Patricia McAllister

Army News Service

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush visited about 50 patients Nov. 9 at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

“Every time I come to Walter Reed I’m struck by the courage and bravery of our men and women who wear the uniform,” Bush said to reporters and photographers gathered outside the medical center. “It’s such an honor to meet the troops who are wounded. And it’s so uplifting to see their spirit, their drive to become rehabilitated, their love of their country, their support of the mission.”

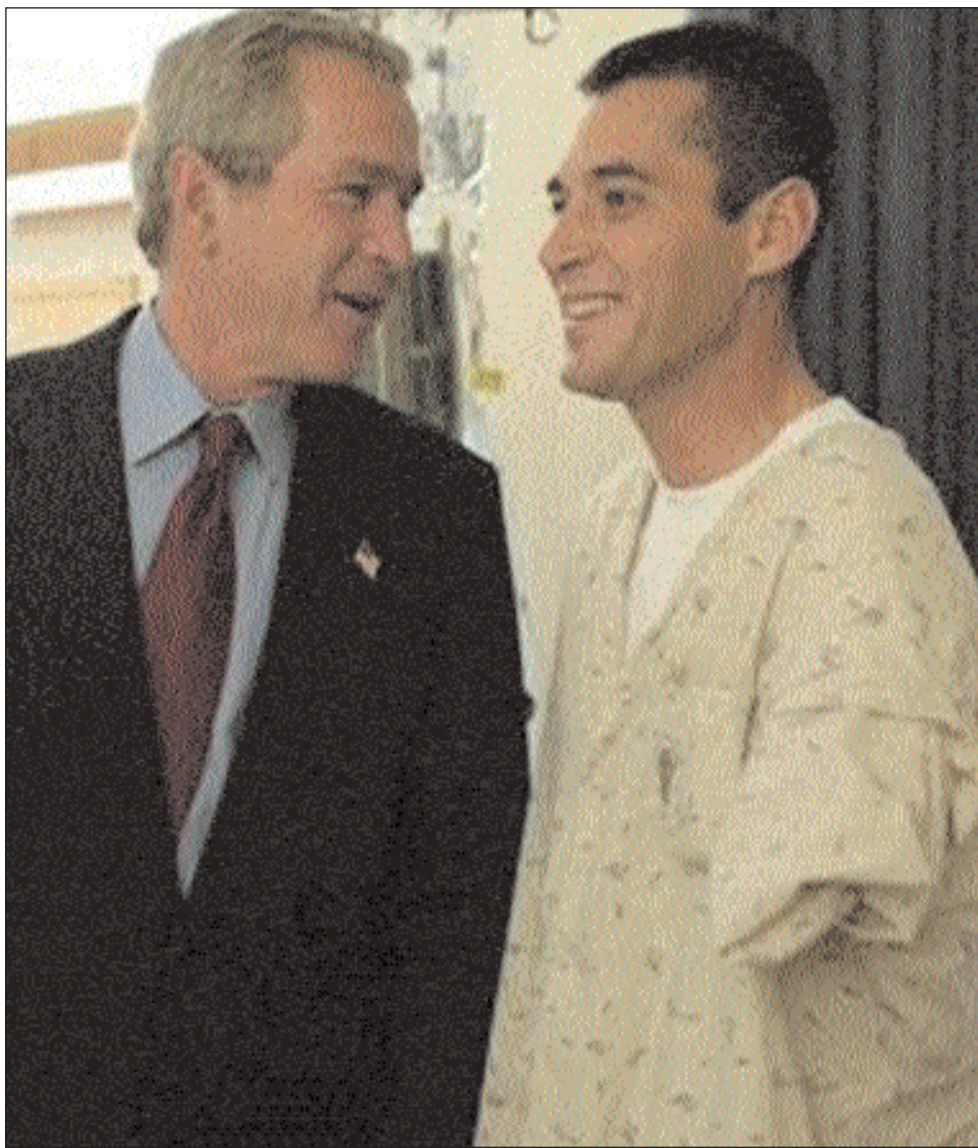
The president said he was moved by the patients’ family members he met earlier in the day.

“Laura and I spent time with the moms and dads and husbands and wives of those who are wounded, and I was struck by just the patriotic sense that they have ... their strong support for their loved ones.”

Bush also praised Walter Reed and its staff. “Every time I come to the hospital, one of the things I try to determine is whether or not our troops and their families are being treated with first-class care,” he said. He added that it’s important for the decision-makers in Washington to know injured troops immediately receive the care they need and deserve.

“I want to thank the generals, the doctors, the nurses for running this hospital,” Bush continued. “It’s such a comforting sense for me to be able to tell a loved one, your person hurt, your loved one will get the best care possible.”

After visiting the wounded, the president reminded the nation about service members still in Iraq. “We’ve got troops in harm’s way in the Fallujah area right now, and our prayers are with the Soldiers and their loved ones as they’re doing the



White House photo

President George W. Bush talks with U.S. Army Spc. Kenneth Lukes of Fort Atkinson, Iowa, during a visit to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Nov. 9.

hard work necessary for a free Iraq to emerge,” he said. “There are still terrorists there who are trying to stop the march of freedom.”

“We wish our troops all the best and Godspeed to them,” he said as he and the first lady departed the hospital.

Walter Reed has treated more than 3,612 patients from Operation Iraqi

Freedom since the war began, 868 of whom have been battle casualties. Of the 868 battle casualties, 674 have been treated as inpatients and 194 as outpatients. Currently 46 Soldiers are admitted to the hospital as inpatients.

Editor’s note: Patricia McAllister writes for the Stripe newspaper at Walter Reed.

Rear Detachment Commander’s Conference

The conference is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 2004, at Club Stewart in the Ball room from 9:00 to 2:15. The purpose of the conference is to enhance the teamwork, camaraderie and operational focus of the Rear Detachment Command and Family Readiness Group leadership.

Spouses planning to attend the conference must confirm their attendance by noon, Monday, November 22, 2004 with Jeanne Burch at 368-3454 or email burchfam@yahoo.com. All military personnel and LNO’s will confirm their attendance with their respective Brigade Rear Detachment Commander not later than 1300 on Friday, November 19, 2004. Brigade Rear Detachment Commanders will provide the number of personnel attending the conference to the 31D Rear Detachment Office not later than close of business Friday, November 19, 2004 at 767-7404 or email, forsheeja@stewart.army.mil.

Personnel requiring childcare during the conference may make reservations by calling either the Fort Stewart (FS CDS) or Hunter Army Airfield Child Development Services (HAAF CDS) at FSCDS 767-3202/3203 or HAAF CDS 353-5879.

Cost for lunch is \$10.00 per person, but eating lunch at the conference is optional. Those desiring to bring their own lunch may do so. Payment can be made at the Marne Club on 30 November 2004.

Dress for the conference will be business casual. If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the conference, please contact LTC Thomas at 767-7404 or email thomas-tr@stewart.army.mil.

CENTCOM News

Iraqi Army contiues operations in Fallujah

FALLUJAH — The Iraqi army's 6th Battalion, 3rd Brigade conducted a cordon-and-search mission north of the city, Nov. 15, with elements from the U.S. Army's 1st Cavalry Division resulting in the detention of 17 individuals.

The operation resulted from suspected anti-Iraq force presence in the area and specifically targeted four homes with the Iraqi force performing the searches. 1st Cavalry conducted the cordon of the area.

Also seized in the operation were two AK-47 assault rifles with ammunition and magazines, an assortment of mortar charges, and various explosives materiel possibly used in improvised explosive device manufacturing and employments in the area.

All detainees have been taken to the Abu Ghraib Prison for further questioning. One of the individuals is a suspected foreign national.

Since operations commenced in Fallujah, a little over a week ago, 6th Battalion has been primarily involved in traffic-control point, cordon-and-search, and other various security operations outside of the city in support of operations inside the town.

No casualties resulted from the operation."

Offensive operations continue to aim at increasing security

MOSUL — Iraqi Security Forces and Multinational forces from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team) continued offensive opera-

tions in Mosul today.

These operations are targeting isolated pockets of insurgent fighters that continue to operate in the city.

Ninevah Provincial governor, Duraid Kashmoula, announced that all bridges in the city are closed to civilian vehicle and pedestrian traffic. A curfew is in place from 4 p.m. to 6 a.m. until further notice.

Soldier charged with premediated murder

BAGHDAD — BAGHDAD, Iraq -- The 1st Cavalry Division announced this morning the charges preferred against one Task Force Baghdad Soldier, allegedly involved in wrongful killing of Iraqis.

Second Lt. Erick J. Anderson of Company C, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, Fort Riley, Kans., has been charged with premeditated murder and conspiracy to commit premeditated murder.

The charges are only allegations. The Soldier is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

The Army's Criminal Investigation Division (CID) is continuing to investigate the allegations. The specific events relating to these charges cannot be discussed in detail at this time due to the on-going investigation.

Mosque raid nets weapons cache in western Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Elements of an Iraqi National Guard Battalion conducted a cordon and search of a western Baghdad mosque at 2 p.m., Nov. 12 capturing a large weapons cache and detaining three clerics and 23 suspected anti-Iraqi forces.

The unit conducted the operation after observing weapons being moved into the Um Tabul Mosque. They were supported by Multi-National Forces, which provided the outer cordon.

The 90-minute operation uncovered 13 AK-47 assault rifles, one RPK machine gun, 1,000 AK-47 rounds, four rocket-propelled grenade launchers, 10 RPG rounds and eight RPG boosters.

"What insurgents must understand is illegal weapons will not be tolerated anywhere inside the city," said Lt. Col. James Hutton, the chief spokesman for the 1st Cavalry Division. "These weapons are the types often used to attack innocent Iraqi civilians."

During the cordon and search operation, Task Force Baghdad Soldiers came under sniper fire. Two were wounded and evacuated to a military medical treatment facility.

Gifts donated to families at the end of Ramadan

FORWARD OPERATING BASE CALDWELL, Iraq — The 209th Iraqi National Guard and the 30th Brigade Combat Team donated shoes, food and money to the city councils of Tuz and Sulayman Bak, which in turn was distributed to poor families on Nov. 11.

At the same time, the Iraq Department of Border Enforcement and the 30th BCT delivered Ramadan gifts to the poorest families in 14 villages, which included Baba Kurz Ad Din, Al Hizam, Alasafa, and Fajjim Villages.

The donation by the 209th ING and 30th BCT was conducted in conjunction with the festival of Aid at the end of Ramadan. The City Councils suggested this idea to the 30th BCT. The 209th ING provided a secure



Elizabeth Erste

Soldier hands out crayons to Iraqi children.

location and manpower for the operation.

Walk-ups also received food and shoes. The 209th ING and the 30th BCT supported this by providing food and money to the city councils of Tuz and Sulayman Bak. City Council members generated lists of the most needy.

It is a Ramadan tradition to give money to the poorest people in your family or village. With the help of the DBE, the monetary gifts provided by the 30th BCT will strengthen growing relationships and build trust among the local people. The gifts were very well received and the villagers were thankful for the participation in their customs.